ALASKAN TOKEN COLLECTOR
& POLAR NUMISMATIST VOLUME XLVII, NO. 5, MAY, 2025.

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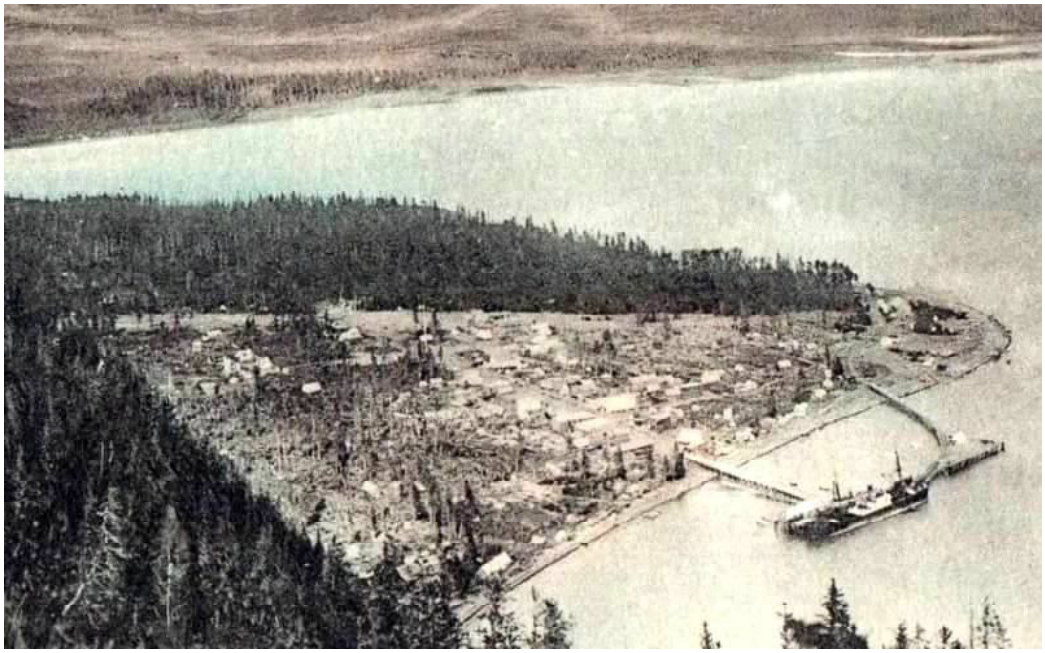
See page 64

# FROM POSTCARD TO TOKEN



It is obvious from the illustrations above, the maker of "The Northern" tokens used a postcard as their source for the bird's eye view of Seward on the token. We own dies which we were told were from Mayer Bros. in Seattle that were used to make souvenir ashtrays - see page 64.

continued on page 59

# EDITOR'S COMMENTS

There are months where I kind of hit a wall, and this seems to be work, not something that I really enjoy. This is one of those months.

This issue is heavy on Seward. Fortunately, the LoC has several Seward papers. Some token issuers are hard to research, as noted in the articles.

eBay this month was rather boring. A couple of items of questionable attribution were sold. The Goodnews Bay Rutlader is almost assuredly a fantasy piece. The Juneau Hotel Cafe is most likely from Wisconsin as the 2½¢ denomination does not fit. But they are in the catalogue with disclaimers, so any purchaser had ample opportunity to decide for themselves.

Henry Landahl of Dawson gets a mention, and one of his tokens was sold on eBay this month at a bargain price (Kilgore & Landahl).

The token says Monty Bay Billiard Hall, while the ad says Monte Bay Pool Hall. Nothing to dispute here, just an interesting observation on the flexibility of spelling and names.

Ft. Yukon and Ketchikan provide a couple of space fillers.

This issue contains the Alaska items in our May 3 auction. Email subscribers will also receive the full auction list. If you get your newsletter via the USPS and would like a printed copy, please let us know and one will be mailed to you.

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# PRICES REALIZED

Selected prices realized from eBay:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Anchorage,** Canteen Bar, 12½¢, B-10a | 35.85 |
| **Anchorage,** Canteen Bar, 12½¢, B-10a | 18.09 |
| **Anchorage,** Chechako Tavern, 12½¢, B-11bI | 19.99OB |
| **Chatanika,** Bingle Fritz, 50¢, B-1b | 107.50 |
| **Fairbanks,** Pioneer Hotel, 10¢, B-45b | 31,57 |
| **(Goodnews Bay),** Rutlader, $1, B-2b | 57.56 |
| **Juneau,** Juneau Hotel Cafe, 2½¢,B-37a7 | 77.55 |
| **Ketchikan,** T+M, Pioneer, $1, B-46c | 18.00OB |
| **King Salmon,** NCO Open Mess, B-1e | 9.99OB |
| **Kodiak,** U.S.N.A.B. Carpenters Local, B-15a | 78.77 |
| **McCarthy,** Golden Hotel, 12½¢, B-2a | 23.09 |
| **Palmer,** ARRC, 5¢, B-1b | 150.00OB |
| **Palmer,** ARRC, 10¢, B-1c | 112.50 |
| **Palmer,** ARRC, 10¢, B-1c | 180.00 |
| **Palmer,** ARRC, $5, B-1g | 230.49 |
| **Seward,** Northern, 12½¢, B-8b | 36.42 |
| **Shemya,** NCO Open Mess, 25¢, B-2f | 35.00OB |
| **Skagway,** McCreedy & Elliott, 50¢, B-16d | 10.50 |
| **Wacker,** Wacker Trans., Fairb, B-T3aI | 12.00 |
| **Dawsaon, YT,** Kilgore & Landahl, B-14a | 49.00 |
| **Whitehorse, YT,** TDP, $1, B-7c | |
| **AYPE,** encased cent, potty | 118.50 |

OB =Opening Bid; NB = No Bid; RL = relist; R = Reserve; RNM = Reserve Not Met; W = withdrawn BIN = Buy it now; BOA = Best Offer Accepted; DNS = Did Not Sell; SUP = sold, unknown price. FTR = see For the Record.

# GRAFT FOUND IN RAILROAD COMMISSARY

**Nome Daily Nugget, December 9, 1916.**

*Anchorage - The arrest recently of Harry White by John H. Robins, special inspector and U.S. Deputy marshal, was the result of several weeks detective work. There have been irregularities going on in the commissary department of the commission in regard to meal tickets for several weeks and young White has been under surveillance for some time and yesterday he was taken into custody. In default of $500 bail he was placed in the federal jail to await his preliminary hearing. More arrests may be made in this connection.*

For more information on meal tickets, see the January 2023 issue.

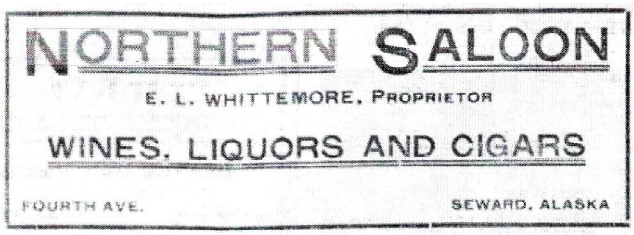
# THE NORTHERN - SEWARD B-8

The Northern 12½¢ native copper tokens are among the most popular of Alaska tokens because they are "native copper" and pictorial. And the longevity can not be doubted, with so many different dies used to make the tokens.

But, the Northern or Northern Saloon is very hard to research in the Seward papers on the LoC. Search "The Northern" or "Northern" and you get 9393 hits. Many refer to northern as an indication of being in the north. If you search "Northern Saloon," you get 84 hits - much more manageable. Most are ads for the Northern Saloon. But you will note that the tokens say "The Northern," so you miss any references to "The Northern" unless you want to plow through 9393 entries! I don't.

So there are a few short items that pop up, and the advertising tracks the ownership.

**Seward Gateway, August 19, 1904.**
***For Sale***
*Option in lot, good location, cabin. - Big tent and Restaurant outfit, cheap inquire Northern Saloon.*

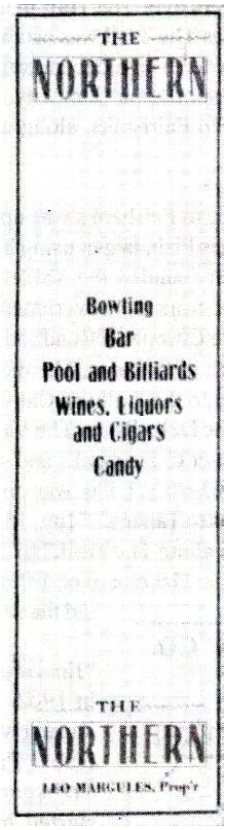



Seward Gateway, October 21, 1904.

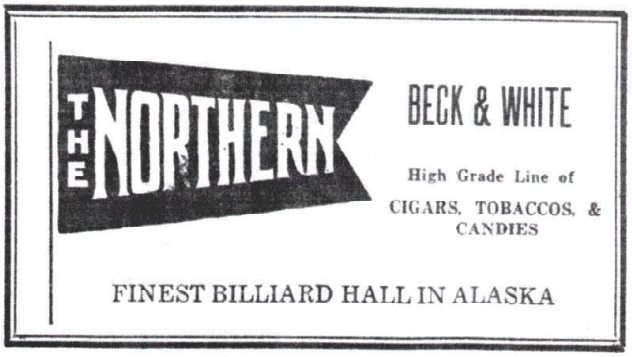
**Seward Weekly Gateway, December 29, 1906.**
***Photograph Cow at Saloon Bar***
*The next thing in souvenir postal cards locally will be pictures of a spotted cow drinking over the bar of the Northern Saloon. She could not manage a glass so Joe Quinn held a bucket for her. She drank plain water, not seeming to care for the colored liquids. The boys had considerable trouble coaxing her inside and as much more getting her to pose while O.W. Kennedy took a snap shot.*

**Seward Weekly Gateway, January 12, 1907.**
***Says Meteor Stuck Close***
*Leonard Goth, night watchman, hurried into the Northern saloon last night and informed the group of maniacs around the pangingi table that a flaming fragment of a meteor or the section of a comet's tail had just dropped on a hill south of town.*

**Seward Daily Gateway, June 1, 1909.**
*Tony Mack arrived on the Santa Clara and will reopen the Northern saloon.*




Seward Gateway, November 19, 1914.
Leo Margules, Prop.

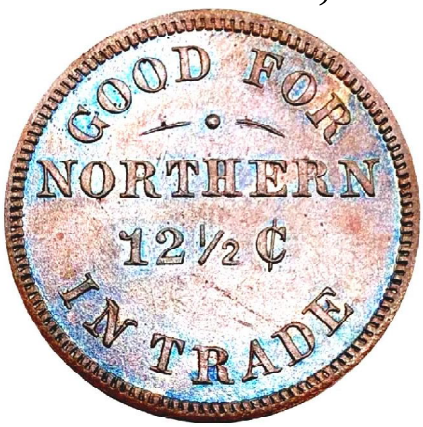



Seward Daily Gateway, October 15, 1924.

**Seward Daily Gateway, October 12, 1929.**
*From a copy of the Daily Gateway of 23 years ago, Saturday, August 22, 1906...*

*EDITOR'S NOTE -- A glance over the advertising columns brings back fond memories; nothing more. For instance -- The Seattle Bar, only the best wines and*

# THE NORTHERN, CONT.




*liquors. Bohemian and Olympia beer. Then there was the Palace with another fine assortment of wet goods for sale. Wagner's Place, The Northern Saloon and then The Louvre, a gentlemen's resort; gold dust bought and sold; and also the Branch.*

BILLIARDS
A KEEN eye, a steady hand and good judgement—these are what make a good billiard player. Try your skill at the best indoor sport known—it's an excellent way to spend an evening. You'll like playing here. Sixty cents an hour.
—Tobaccos—Candies—
—Soft Drinks—
John C. White & Co.
THE NORTHERN

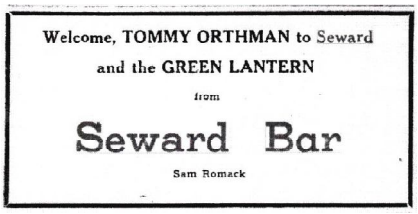
Seward Daily Gateway, March 15, 1930.
John C. White & Co.

# SEWARD SALOONS!

Seward Weekly Gateway, March 16, 1907.

# SEWARD BAR

The Seward Bar does not appear in the LoC until 1948. Seems late for a 12½¢ token. I would have to guess that there was an earlier Seward Bar.




Seward Seaport Record, May 20, 1949.

# LEO DOUGLAS

**THE PIONEER, SEWARD B-10**

Like Walter Holben, there is scant evidence of Leo Douglas being in business in the LoC. It seems that for many years, he was a clerk in McMullens grocery store. He gets many mentions as a speed boat racer. In 1949, he and Joe Isaacs were overcome by fumes while cleaning tractor parts with carbon-tetrachloride. Isaacs dies, and Douglas nearly dies.

In the ads in the Seward newspapers, John Nash is the proprietor from October 7, 1924 until his death on May 30, 1927. Charles Crawford reopened the Pioneer Club in October of 1927, and he sold it to the Gillispie brothers in April of 1928. There are no ads from this time until Nick Hodak's ads run from January 1932 to January 1933. There are no more ads for the Pioneer Club in the papers on the LoC which ends about 1950. There is a gap from 1943 to 1947.

There is no mention of Leo Douglas in connection with the Pioneer Club.

**Seward Seaport Record, April 22, 1949.**
***BUSINESS BLOCK CHANGES HANDS***
*It is reported that John Matich has sold the building occupied by the Palace Cafe and Gil's Cocktail Lounge to Leo Douglas, the present owner of the Northern Bar.*

*Mr. Douglas is well known in Alaska and ran on the Democratic ticket for territorial representative last fall*

*Hal Gilfilen, who operates Gil's Cocktail Lounge, said that he has a lease which extends till next February.*

This is the only reference I found of Leo Douglas being in business in Seward. Gene Thorn purchased Gil's Lounge in 1967.

**Seward Seaport Record, December 19, 1950.**
***MRS. DOUGLAS TAKES OVER NORTHERN BAR***
*Mrs. Emma Lou Douglas took over the Northern Bar business from her husband, Leo Douglas, an outright sale this week.*

*It will be operated in her name only in the future. Mr. Douglas is going Outside.*

**Seward Seaport Record, December 15, 1950.**
*From this day on I will not be responsible for any obligations unless contracted for by myself.*
*signed Leo Douglas*

One gets the impression that Mrs. Douglas was the business brains of the family, while Leo attended to other matters (politics, boat racing, hunting and fishing).

One thing I find interesting is that he owned (or leased) the Pioneer Club long enough to require two token issues as both obverse and reverse dies are different.

Gene Thorn purchased Gil's Lounge in 1967. See the September 2021 issue.

# NEWS FROM DAWSON

**Daily Alaskan, Skagway, December 13, 1907.**
*Joe McDonald and Nelson were former owners of the* ***M & N saloon,*** *one of the old institutions of Dawson. They have sold out to* ***Louis Cook*** *and Charles Dolan, and are themselves, on the way outside for a period of rest...*

# QUALITY BAKERY
# SEWARD B-11

Fantasy restrike from the Duane Feisel collection.

**Seward Daily Gateway, April 2, 1928.**
***QUALITY BAKERY STARTS LUNCH SERVICE TODAY***
*Announcement is made today in other columns of this issue of the opening of a bakery lunch service by the "Quality Bakery," in the Johanson building.*

*Mr. Flower's, in making this announcement, states they are now prepared to serve daily an assortment of bakery lunches made from the best of ingredients and not, substitutes.*

*Tables have been placed in the store section; it will be constantly the endeavor of the "Quality Bakery" to treat their patrons, as in the past, with quality bakery goods, and with unfailing courtesy.*

*The entire arrangement of the new shop is neat and wholesome with ample room in the store proper and in bakery. Carl Robinson is assisting Mr. Flower's in the shop.*

ANNOUNCEMENT

THE QUALITY BAKERY IS NOW READY TO SERVE LUNCHES TO ITS MANY PATRONS.

QUALITY BAKERY

Seward Daily Gateway, April 2, 1928.

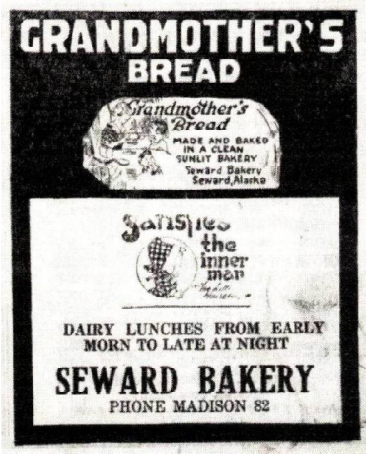
**Seward Daily Gateway, May 2, 1929.**
***IN CHARGE OF BAKERY***
*P.C. McMullen, owner of the Quality Bakery, announces Mrs. Martine Johansen has been placed in charge of the business which he recently acquired. Included in the staff is Carl Robinson, baker, and two waitresses.*

**Seward Daily Gateway, June 11, 1929.**
***NOTICE***
*All outstanding accounts up to April 25th due the Quality Bakery when it was operated by Mrs. Sawyer and Mr. Flowers - please pay to Miss M.J.S. Rasmussen.*
*Signed Mrs. Sawyer*

**Seward Daily Gateway, November 13, 1929.**

**Seward Daily Gateway, November 30, 1929.**
***QUALITY BAKERY IS MOVING TO NEW HOME***
*Tonight the Quality Bakery will move from its present location into that occupied by the Seward Bakery. Manager Carl Robinson states the move will be made beginning tonight and that the usual excellent variety of bakery goods will be on sale Sunday in the new location.*

*The move is made, it is said, in order to have use of the additional space afforded and more modern shop which was installed by the late proprietor of the building, George Schmidt.*



B-13a

# SEWARD CLUB, B-15

The Seward Club seems to have had at least two incarnations. Because of the name, it is difficult to research on the LoC.

The first ad is from April 21, 1906.

**Seward Daily Gateway, April 23, 1914.**
*The fixtures formerly used by the Seward Club saloon have been purchased by the owners of the Seattle Bar and are now in place in the popular down town thirst emporium. The additional fixtures make the Seattle Bar one of the show places of Seward and one of the finest appointed places in Alaska.*

**Seward Gateway, January 11, 1916.**
*The carpenter work on the quarters of the newly organized Seward Club is fast nearing completion and the proprietors think it will be finished by the last of next week. The billiard and pool tables, the best of the Brunswick Balke makes, and other stock are expected on the Northwestern the middle of next week and it is thought the Seward Club will be ready for business a few days later.*

ALL WELCOME
AT
THE SEWARD CLUB
HOPKINS & TORREY, Props.
Billiards, Cigars, Tobaccos, Candies and Fruits
The Most Complete and Up-to-Date Pool Hall in Seward

**Seward Gateway, January 25, 1916.**
***SEWARD CLUB OPENS FOR BUSINESS THIS EVENING***
*The Seward Club will open for business this evening under the ownership of Messrs. Hopkins and Torrey. Fine billiard and pool tables have been installed under the direct supervision of Frank Torrey, and adept with the cue. Cigars and tobacco of first class brands will also be kept in stock and the place promises to be a most popular resort. The Club occupies part of the locations of the Terminal Bar building.*

Many more mentions are found of the Seward Club, often as a shortening of Seward Commercial Club.

# WALTER HOLBEN

**UP & UP, SEWARD B-18a**

Walter Holben is mentioned many times in the Seward newspapers. He is involved with the volunteer fire department, included in may hunting and fishing parties, assisting at many social events and working on road crews and at mines. But there is no mention of him being in any kind of business.

Perhaps one entry reveals an inside knowledge of the liquor business.

**Seward Daily Gateway, December 30, 1926.**
*Walter Holben will be master of the punch. His many years experience in this line has gained him the title of being one of the few men in the country who know that almost vanished art of the proper concocting of fragrant, thirst-quenching fruit punch.*

The only hint of him being in business is in a travel note, the kind of announcement that all newspapers carried.

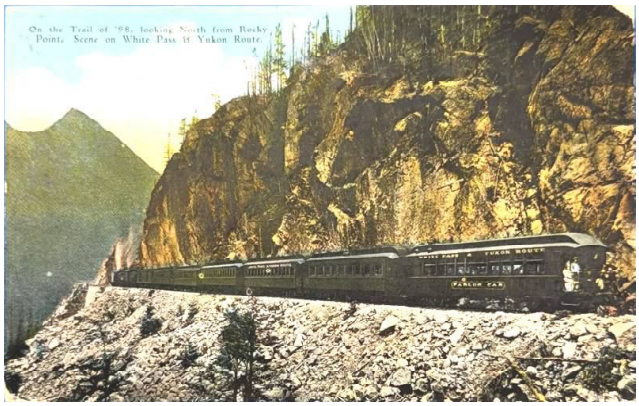
**Daily Alaskan Empire, June 25, 1937.**
*Mrs. Walter Holben and James, wife and son of a prominent restaurant owner in Anchorage, were in Juneau briefly this morning while passengers on the steamship Baranof for a visit in the States.*

Presumably the newspaper got this business location wrong.

# FROM POSTCARD TO ASHTRAY TO MEDAL

Some time prior to 1982, I acquired a large die, "On The White Pass & Yukon Railroad." Later information indicates that this die, and the others, were used to make souvenir ashtrays. Over the years I noticed post cards that closely resembled the images on the medals. It is my belief that these dies came from Mayer Bros. of Seattle.

In 1982, we had the first of four 3.5 inch uniface bronze medals made by Medallic Art Co. - "On The White Pass & Yukon Railroad." Only 100 medals were produced. These are 3.7mm thick. At $35, this medal sold out within weeks. Railroads were very popular at the time.




This first medal sold so well, I had two additional medals made in : "Skagway" harbor and "White Horse Rapids." Again, only 100 were minted. These medals were thicker at about 6mm. They did not sell very well.

# FROM POSTCARD TO ASHTRAY TO MEDAL

**continued**

My long term plan was to pair both the "Skagway" and "White Horse Rapids" die with the "White Pass & Yukon" die and have two sided medals made.

In the mean time, I had the last of four medals, "Alaskan Express" made in 1986. Again, only 100 were made. These sold better, but not as well as the first medal.

This postcard does not match the medal as well as the others. I know I have seen a postcard that is a nearly perfect match, but could not find one at this time.

Procrastination and lack of funds is a killer. Shortly after I had the "Alaskan Express" medals made, Medallic Art Co. filed for the first of their bankruptcies. Some how I got the last three dies back, but the "White Pass & Yukon die disappeared. There went my hopes of using the dies again. The American Numismatic Society purchased the dies from the last bankrupt holder. I am in contact in hopes of recovering the WP&Y die.

See the sales section of this newsletter for offerings of these medals.

# MONT(Y, E) BAY

**YAKUTAT B-1**

The Alaskan, Petersburg, February 19, 1932.

**Daily Alaska Empire, Juneau, April 27, 1933.**
***PERMITS SECURED FOR LEGAL LIQUOR SALES***

*United States Marshal Albert White, who has charge of the First Division of issuing internal revenue beer and wine licenses has granted permission to sell legal brews and wines to the following:*

*Charles Greenaa, Petersburg;* ***Ben Peterson, Yakutat;*** *Ed Snyder, Tenakee; Charles Wortman, Sitka; J.H. Biggs, Juneau.*

# LANDAHL FORMALLY OPENS A.B. GRAND CAMP

**Alaska Daily Empire, November 12, 1913.**
*SEATTLE, Nov. 12. -- The Grand Camp of the Outside Arctic Brotherhood was formally opened this morning with Henry J. Landahl presiding as Grand Arctic Chief. Credentials of the delegates were presented and the routine work is now in progress.*

(Dawson, B-14, Kilgore & Landahl)

# FT. YUKON 1929

**Seward Daily Gateway, December 13, 1929.**
*There are three stores in Fort Yukon and all do a good business. They are run by the Northern Commercial Company, H.E. Carter and W. Rodman. Michael de Michel operates a pool room and soft drink parlor and during the summer a sawmill in conjunction with this other business.*

# BURGLARIES AT KETCHIKAN

**Daily Alaska Empire, Juneau, November 17, 1932.**
*Alfred F. Ellenburg, Ketchikan man, yesterday entered a plea of guilty to many petty robberies in the First City. He was indicted for burglary, larceny from a dwelling and larceny. Among his victims were: Dr. R.V. Ellis, Heckman-Carrington Company,* ***Pioneer Pool Hall, Holland's Cigar Store,*** *Gordon's Inc. and other places. He will be sentenced later by Judge Harding.*

# ITEMS FOR SALE, MANY FROM THE ARTICLES

## SEWARD TOKENS

American Legion, Post 25, XXV B-1a **5.00**

As above, but with a partial double strike **25.00**

The Northern, 12½¢, B-8a, oval, VG-F **175.00**
The Northern, 12½¢, B-8bI **45.00**
The Northern, 12½¢, **NGC** AU-55 dark, appears to be B-8bII, but without die break **75.00**
The Northern, 12½¢, B-8bII, die break just starting, Choice AU to Unc with luster **150.**
The Northern, 12½¢, B-8bII, prominent die break **45.00**
The Northern, 12½¢, B-8bIII **45.00**

The Palace, 12½¢, B-9b **325.00**
The Palace, 12½¢, "Gateway", B-9c **45.00**

Pioneer Club, Leo Douglas, 12½¢, B-10a **150.0**

Seward Bar, 12½¢, B-14a **45.00**
Solly's, One Snort, B-16a **5.00**
As above, Seward & Kodiak **5.00**

Up & Up, W. Holben, 12½¢, B-18a **130.00**

## KETCHIKAN

T and M Pioneer Pool Hall, $1, B-46c **15.00**

## FT. YUKON

H.E. Carter, 50¢, B-3c **400.00**

## LARGE BRONZE MEDALS

Large (3.5 inch) Bronze medals, set of 4.
See pages 64 and 65. **475.00**
On The White Pass & Yukon Railroad;
Skagway harbor
White Horse Rapids
Alaskan Express
White Horse Rapids only **75.00**

# AUCTION TO BE HELD IN FAIRBANKS MAY 3, 2025.

**Absentee bids accepted until Noon, May 3 - Auction begins at 7:00PM**
**By mail: Alaska Rare Coins, 551-B Second Ave., Fairbanks, AK 99701**
**By phone: 907-452-6461 By email: alaskararecoins@gmail.com**

# ALASKA TOKENS & MEDALS

283 **Alaska Tokens: Alakanuk,** Alstrom Trading Co., Set of 6; 25¢, 50¢, $1, $5, $10 and $10, all about unc., B-1 a-f. Some of the last real tokens in use, being used at least into the 1950s. 100.+

284 **Alaska Tokens: Anchorage,** Union Club, set of 4: 5,10,25 and 50 cents, B-38 a-d, AU/BU 25.+

285 **Alaska Token: Chatanika,** Dempsey Hotel, N.G. Cox, $1, B-3c, AU with light corrosion. 30.+

286 **Alaska Milk Tokens: Fairbanks.** Includes Bentley Dairy 10 Cents Bottle Check, B-6a; Creamer's Dairy, 1 Quart, B-13b; and Fairbanks Public Schools, Milk, B-18a. XF to AU 3pcs. 50.

287 **Alaska Token: Fairbanks,** Pioneer Hotel, 5 Cents, B-45aI, XF 30.

288 **Alaska Tokens: Ketchikan,** (3) "$1" tokens: Lange's $1, B-29d; "P" 100 Points, B-41c; and R+C Pioneer Bar and Cardroom, 100 Pts, B-44e. AU, VF and AU respectively. 3 pieces. 30.

289 **Alaska Tokens: Kotzebue,** Ferguson Stores, 25¢, 50¢ and $1, B-1, a-c. VF or better with some dings. Three pieces. 100.

290 **Alaska Token: McCarthy,** Johnson Hotel, 12½¢, B-4a 35.

291 **Alaska Token: Nenana,** Alfred P.J. Ghezzi, 25¢, B-3aI 30.

292 **Alaska Token: Seldovia,** Cash Store, 5¢, B-5a 35.

293 **Alaska Tokens: Spenard,** Friendly Fireside Lounge, set of 7; 25¢, 65¢, 75¢, 85¢, 90¢ and $1, B-2, a-g. All AU to BU. These bridge territory to statehood. 100.+

294 **Alaska Token: Talkeetna,** H.W.N. (Horace W. Nagley), 50¢, B-3b, AU 50.

295 **Alaska Token: Yes Bay,** Alaska Pacific Fisheries, 5¢, B-3a, XF 75.

296 **Silver Iditarod Medal,** 1994. The Iditarod medal series started in 1989. All are 1 oz. pure silver. The following are all in their original display cases. This attractive medal shows two sled dogs resting. We believe the projected mintage was 5,000. 50.+

297 **Silver Iditarod Medal,** 1995. Features a sled dog's head in the center. Projected mintage 5,000. 50.+

298 **Silver Iditarod Medal,** 2002. This has a view of what you would see if you were following behind another musher. A nice scenic view. Projected mintage 3,500. 50+

299 **Silver Iditarod Medal,** 2007. Anyone who has watched the start of a sled dog race will recognize this "pose" with the husky leaping in anticipation of the sheer joy of running. Projected mintage 3,000. 50.+

300 **State of Alaska 1 oz. Gold Medal,** 1993. The wolf was featured on the obverse of this year with the mandated seal of the State on the reverse. It is in its original capsule with faint red spotting we normally see on the pure gold State medals. **RARE** with only 77 minted. 3,300.

301 **UAF Museum Gold and Silver Riverboat Nenana Medal Set.** During the 1980s we were approached by the Director of the Museum to have medals struck for them to sell in their gift shop. The art work was done by Jim Belke and we had the dies prepared through Silvertown in Indiana. We reserved the first 100 silver medals to be sold in sets with the gold, each numbered and matched. We allowed customers to pick a number and we would have the set minted. In the end, only 20 gold medals were struck with non-sequential serial numbers, the highest being #100 and lowest #2. This is #59 and housed in the original case. Both medals are 1 oz. each pure. 3,300.

302 **Alaska Gold Charm.** This is probably the cutest of the early charms made by J.L. Houston. Cast in 10 Kt gold and having a total weight of .289 troy ounces, this shows two young Eskimos in their parkas leaning over to kiss each other. The actual gold content is .12 oz. Retail on this would be about $900. 600.+